



WEN fosters career and leadership developm't for women in energy field

by Kim James

Women in the once male-dominated energy sector in Houston have a great place to connect and network, gain career insight and develop leadership skills.

Women's Energy Network of Houston (WEN) is an organization that provides networking opportunities and fosters career and leadership development for women in the energy industry.

WEN was founded in 1994 by Karyl Lawson. As a lawyer in the industry, Lawson found she was often the only woman on energy transactions. The few women she did come across had similar experiences, felt stranded in their field and didn't have a place to truly connect with others like them.

The organization started with a core group of six women who then began to invite others. Within its first year, WEN membership grew to 200 women.

"The purpose of Women's Energy Network is to provide mentors, education and advancement for local women in energy," said Lawson. "And WEN does that."

Now, between 450 and 500 gather each month at a

luncheon to hear speakers who exhibit leadership skills and act as role models in the field, encouraging others to do the same.

WEN is modeled after Leadership Texas, the prestigious women's leadership development program. Like Leadership Texas, WEN is designed to help form and strengthen women leaders in the energy field by equipping them with leadership skills, continued education and a supportive network of women.

Luncheon speakers and featured guests do include men but consist primarily of women.

Lawson said, "People are more likely to develop leadership skills if they are being taught by someone who looks and sounds like them."

She continued, "The number of women getting significant leadership roles has improved, though the male-dominated upstream (exploration and production) has not progressed as much as the middle and downstream (trading markets and utilities). We still have a long way to go."

The Women's Energy Network also gives back to the community in several ways. Every other year, the group hosts a luncheon and gives all



Karyl Lawson

proceeds to a local charity. In 2008, the Women's Energy Network raised over \$125,000 for the heralded Los Niños Early Childhood Education

Program.

To introduce young women to the wealth of career possibilities in the energy industry, WEN began Young Women Energized, a program that gives junior high and high school girls the opportunity to learn about careers in the energy industry.

Membership in WEN is broad-based and open to female professionals in the energy world with a bachelor's degree or at least five years of professional involvement in the field, as well as a written recommendation by a current WEN member.

For more information about Women's Energy Network of Houston, go online and visit www.wenhouston.org.

BURNETT'S PACKAGE EXPRESS
 WE GO THE EXTRA MILE
BURNETT JACKSON
 CEO
 0-23,000 LBS.
 7425 MARILYN LANE
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77016
 713-631-5547 Office
 713-817-5418 Cell
 burnettspkgexp_inc@people.com
 WWW.BURNETTS-EXPRESS.COM

"It's all about performance and finding your own management style. You need to be comfortable in your own skin to feel good about how you can influence others your way."

Brenda Harris
 President & COO
 Talent Tree

What's your tomorrow look like?

As you take stock in how far you've come in your professional career and look forward to where you want to be, we hope you'll consider letting Talent Tree be a resource for your professional advancement. Whether you're looking to take the next step or ready to make a giant leap, we can put the full power of our connections and insight to work for you. We're just as interested in your tomorrow as you are.

TALENT TREE
 TALENTTREE.COM | 800.999.1515

Talent Tree is a proud supporter of
 The American Cancer Society.